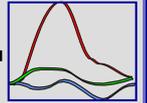




The Kedron Brook Babbler



The Newsletter of Kedron Brook Catchment Branch - Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

Covering the environmental interests of the individuals, groups and organisations living in and near the Kedron Brook catchment, Brisbane, Australia

October 2011

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'In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—there are consequences.'

*(Robert Greene Ingersoll
1833-1899)*

Special interest points:

- Wetland enhancement planned at McGregor Way
- Weed signals its presence!
- Alf Harvey bushcare memories
- Wahminda joeys plant plants
- Fishbone Fern given a thrash

Queensland Rail supports local revegetation project

As part of the railway upgrade from Ferny Grove to Keperra, Queensland Rail is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and is working with our local bushcare groups to sponsor revegetation of nearby areas at Cassimaty Park.

Kedron Brook Catchment Branch, alongside Brisbane City Council (Habitat Brisbane & Creek Ranger Field Services), put forward a four stage plan to plant over 2,000 native plants and trees in Cassimaty Park to compensate for various native trees and vegetation that had to be removed for the railway upgrade.

Queensland Rail recently completed and signed an agreement with Council and our Branch and is keen to get the project on the road as soon as possible.

Men of the Trees (MOTT) has worked for many years to re-establish bushland areas around Ferny Grove (See their web site at <http://www.menofthetrees.org.au/>). They enthusiastically agreed to come on board to assist with the plantings, which will continue over a two year period including ongoing maintenance. It is hoped that other community bushcare groups such as the Wahminda Grove and Ferny Grove may be able to contribute some assistance when convenient.



Queensland Rail and Brisbane City Council representatives meet to plan planting areas at Cassimaty Park on 15 September

If you would enjoy supporting our wildlife by the rejuvenation of their habitat with this project, come along to the official launch and first stage of plantings on Saturday, 15 October, at Cassimaty Park (opposite BP service station on Samford Road, Ferny Grove) from 9 am till 12.30 pm or so.

Stage 2 is also already being planned for Saturday, 10 December.

For further information, see our web site and that of MOTT, or contact Jacinta by phone on 07 3407 0925.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

Wildlife Qld Annual General Meeting—Springbrook

The Wildlife Queensland Get together and AGM was held at Koonjewarre, Springbrook, over Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September, 2011. President Robert Standish White, Secretary Lennert Veerman, Suzanne Walsh and Charles Ivin drove down at crack of dawn for the Saturday program. This covered the Branch presentations, the AGM, and we split to participate separately in the Koala workshop or in the short bushwalk towards Twin Falls with David Jinks, local botanist. Great stuff!

Robert did us proud with his report presentation about our KBCB branch activities.

WPSQ President Simon Baltais



President Simon Baltais pauses awhile with Robert Standish-White at AGM

was voted in for another year and with his management's assistance, gave inspirational reports on the progress of our organisation. There were the usual trials and tribulations.

Our enthusiastic project leaders have mainly achieved successful outcomes that have earned the respect of government bodies but this is not backed by adequate support of our environmental priorities.

We also took advantage of the glorious views from two lookouts and, on the way home looked over Mt Warning and northern NSW from the 'Best of all Lookouts'!

(Charles Ivin)

State of the Brook

There will be times as we plant, observe or meander along the Brook that we will ponder on great and distant forces that impinge on our catchment in various ways. The most obvious must be the Southern Oscillation Index that flags the resurgence of El Nino or La Nina. Others might include climate change or some disease like myrtle rust. One of the most important is policy and regulation that emerges from the political pressures of the day and has results long after.

As Wildlife Queensland has reminded us of late, there is a state election coming up that will be crucial to the future of many environmental issues in this state. We need to make a major effort to communicate with our current and aspiring politicians so that they know that wetlands, koalas, protected fisheries and all the rest hold as much stature with the voting public as infrastructure and exports to China. Whilst the latter may have more immediate benefits the former will have more long term rewards - something polities are not wont to grasp.

We should also be making efforts to inform and convince other influential



'Coastal ecosystems sequester carbon 10-50 times faster than terrestrial forests... but coastal systems are one of the most "at risk"' (Wayne Cameron, BCN)

citizens. Our approach needs to be couched in terms of "investments and dividends" not "just another plan". There is money available for remediating our long abused landscape, but if we want to see it utilised in appropriate ways we need to be arguing for the tangible benefits of ecological services.

We should be talking of "natural infrastructure" in balance with our imposed requirements – terms that will be more familiar in boardrooms than indirect pleas for sustainability. There is good will lurking in the corridors of power; we just



Wildlife needs adequate habitat to exist

need to nurture it into the open by being proactive and positive in our approach.

So talk to your banker, managing director, councillor, union president, headmaster, bishop, anyone who has influence and pass on your passion for the environment and the benefits it has for all of society – the current constituency and their grand-children!

As the Brook is now at low levels waiting for the rejuvenation of the rains, let us also be part of an increasing flow of pressure on parliament to do better; it is our country after all. In the meantime, don't forget to get out there and enjoy!

Robert Standish-White,
President

Snippets

Hi! From our new creek ranger

My name is Jacinta Hamilton and I will be acting as Kedron Brook Creek Ranger while Anna Bourke is on maternity leave. What might you want to know about me?

I have completed a Bachelor of Social Science degree, majoring in Behavioural Science and Sociology. While working towards my degree I started volunteering and then working at Alma Park Zoo as a Zookeeper. I worked there for two and a half years with most of my time spent as Head keeper of the native mammals, birds and exotic and native reptiles sections. I also attended to primates, ungulates and a sun bear.

I was then fortunate to get a job as an Environment Education Officer and Volunteer Coordinator at Boondall Wetlands and Downfall Creek Environment Centres through Brisbane City Council. This has now led to me receiving the opportunity to further my skills in my new role as a Creek Ranger.

My main interests/passions include the Australian Environment (especially fauna), health and fitness and a good meal with great company.

While acting in this role, I hope that I am able to do at least half as good a job as Anna. I am really looking forward to



President Robert Standish- White talking with new Creek Ranger, Jacinta

working along side Kedron Brook Catchment Branch to assist in the conservation and rehabilitation of Kedron Brook.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

Anna and Scott produce the goods

Baby Ethan arrived weighing 5 lb 10 oz and 34 cm long on the morning of Wednesday 7 September! Mum and bub are doing well although Ethan had to spend a few weeks in the humidcrib as he was six weeks early. Anna recently emailed the photo (right) and Ethan is of course safe and well at home now

Congratulations, Anna and Scott!

(Jacinta Hamilton)



Ethan Bourke waves happily while in hospital special care between snoozing and putting a bit of weight on.

Photo: Anna Bourke

Powerlink supports Wahminda Grove

The partnership between Powerlink, Wahminda Grove Bushies and the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch continues.

An unfortunate incident involving surveyors, axes and lines of vision saw some damage in the bushcare site on the Samford Road side. During a meeting with Bob Barker of Powerlink to assess the damage, an extra 10 000 dollars of contractor work was generously offered to assist the group to tackle high priority weeds. The group has since met with the contractor and work has already begun on the site. Although a painful way to receive extra funding, the group are pleased to be

(Continued on page 4)

Bushcare along the catchment

A big hello from Habitat Brisbane. As the new feature of the Babbler I'll be introducing you to all the groups of the Kedron Brook Catchment and any interesting going-ons. I thought this edition we might feature a founding member of the Habitat Brisbane program—Mr Alf Harvey and his group, the Alderley Grange Bushies and Friends.

Alf began his work in the Grange Forest Park around 1990. In the early 1970's, the site had been converted to parkland but was extensively used as a dump and, according to Alf, could have had anything from 'potato peels to car bodies'. His



Magnificent fig tree near the Algester Street end of Mornington Street Park



Two views of plantings taken along the Grange Forest pathways in September 2004

objective was to see the park 'look something – to create a bit of bush'.

He has planted and weeded extensively on the site and continues his work some two decades later. During that time he has seen the group wax and wane in numbers; now for most of the working bees it's just him. When I asked him what his greatest achievement was, he listed the 'whole site really, nothing specific'. But he admitted to finding it difficult to deal with the ever increasing number of scrub turkeys that now call the site home!

Congratulations to Alf and all of his hard work over the past twenty plus years. We all appreciate the effort of individuals such as yourself and I know for sure that the turkeys love it!

Catherine Cleary

Learn that weed!



Signal Grass (*Brachiaria decumbens*)

Signal grass is a low-growing tufted perennial, reclining or lying on the ground with trailing stems that root at the nodes. Bright green, moderately hairy leaves 7–20 mm wide and 5–25 cm long.

Leaf blades lanceolate. Typical 'signal' seed head (Seed heads almost at right-angles to the axis rather like a railway signal) with 2–7 racemes, 1–5 cm long, borne on an axis up to 10 cm long.

Ranked 120th out of the 200 species listed in the Qld Herbarium's 'Invasive Naturalised Plants in SE Queensland', the weed has an invasive score of 3.5 out of 5.

A pasture grass, Signal Grass doesn't make the State Weed list. However, it is amongst the BCC's environmental weed class listing; Class R weeds—reduce population as part of routine maintenance.

The dense cover of signal grass tends to overgrow other plants, rather like Guinea grass and Para grass does if allowed.

(CI)

BCC Waterway health enhancement projects at Ferny Grove

With the help of funding from the Federal Government Caring for Our Country initiative, Brisbane City Council (BCC) is upgrading two parks over the next three financial years to improve waterway health in Ferny Grove.

The first work commenced at Selkirk Crescent where a Community Tree Planting Day was held at Selkirk Crescent Park on Sunday morning, 14 August. Community volunteers, including the local guide group and members of Transition the Grove, participated. It was marvellous to see local families with their young children being so closely involved with the project.

The event also included a free BBQ lunch, a Geckoes Wildlife Presentations show, displays, weeds information stand



Robert Standish-White and Jane Prentice (Federal member for Ryan) welcome volunteers at Selkirk Crescent community tree planting on 14 August

and plant giveaway. A real family affair!

The wetland enhancement at McGregor Way aims to improve water treatment; either by deepening areas to encourage



Girl guides, Isabella Sullivan, Molly Baker and Chloe Schafer, show how it's done as a team at the planting day

sediment deposition or by additional planting to improve nitrogen removal efficiency. Our Branch has been involved with an aspect of the creation of a viewing platform at the entry to the site.

(CI)

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Brook!**

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**Wahminda Joey Scouts revegetate
the steep bank at the back of their
den on Sunday 15 September**

Photo: Lyn Ellerman

(Snippets-Powerlink continued from page 2)

able to use this additional finance to further the weed removal and ecological restoration efforts onsite.

(Catherine Cleary)

Restoring Corridors 2 – Time to Reflect

The second round of this RC2 project came to a successful end with the bus tour of three participating properties on Saturday 20 August. At the Higgins's home, an inspection was held of the steady growth of plants along the top of the dam earthworks. This was followed by the welcome serving of morning tea.

Successful use of Weed Gunnel on a rather steep slope took the immediate interest of the group at the Sharp/Fitzsimon property. Although early days after the planting, the majority of the trees looked well considering the irregular rain and the well drained slope. A large steep area, cleared of exotic vines, was then shown nearby. It proved that strong personal effort and follow-up removal of emerging weeds brought successful results in the end.

The group examined weed removal and another successful planting on the earthen dam at the Ledger property. The group voted to conduct a mini-working bee on a significant area of Fishbone Fern in a small gully. Although this weed was not completely removed, the worst of a hard task was broken and Debbie Ledger said it would now be easier to maintain in the future. A yummy luncheon of wraps and fresh fruit followed.

Given suitable funding, the Branch is hopeful of having an RC3 in the future.

(Charles Ivin)



**A well-satisfied tour group shows the
huge mass of Fishbone Fern removed
from the gully at the Ledger property**

Photo: Fflur Collier

Catchment Kids

It was a successful day for our Catchment Kids out at Bowman Park, Bardon. Kedron Brook Catchment's Kids from Nundah State School, alongside three other Catchment Kid's classes from Brisbane, rotated between four different learning activities.

The activities included Geckoes Wildlife Presentations, tree planting with the Creek Rangers, story-telling, and indigenous education by Rick Roser.

It was a very enjoyable day. At times, it was confusing as to whether it was the students or the assisting parents and teachers who were having the most fun.

The Catchment Kid's classes throughout Brisbane are now preparing themselves for the final year performance which will be held at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in October. Nundah State School are the current reigning champions from the 2010 event. Hopefully they will be able to keep their title for 2011.

(Jacinta Hamilton)

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 15 October	Queensland Rail Community Tree Planting Day Stage 1 Saturday 15 October 2011, 9 am to 12.30 pm at Cassimaty Park (opposite BP service Station on Samford Road) (UBD Map 137 ref LI). This is the launch of a joint project involving Queensland Rail, Men of the Trees (MOTT), and KBCB. This project is part of the overall upgrade of the Ferny Grove / Keperra train line. Morning tea will be available. A real family affair! Please contact Acting Creek Ranger, Jacinta Hamilton, on 3407 0925 for more details.
Tuesday 18 October	Kedron Brook Catchment Branch and Network Meeting Tuesday 18 October, at Downfall Creek Bushland Centre, 815 Rode Rd, McDowall. Join us at 7.00 pm for pre-meeting drinks and nibbles. Dr. Geoff Monteith (Queensland Museum) will talk on the surveying of dung beetles, results of a survey at Moggill Creek catchment and a potential KBCB project. Meeting runs 7.30 pm—9.30 pm. RSVP Robert Standish-White on 3862 1186.
Saturday 10 December	Queensland Rail Community Tree Planting Day Stage 2 Similar details as above for Stage 1 at Cassimaty Park. This is expected to be a larger event than the first! Watch our web site for details.
Sunday 6 November	Bird Survey Grinstead Park and Sparkes Hill Reserve Sunday 6 November, 7 am. (UBD Map 139 ref. D8). Meet in Grinstead Park car park. Check out our web site or contact Jenny Ivin on 3851 0160 for further details.



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